

# Our Public School System Is Unexcelled In The United States

## From Kindergarten To High School Phoenix Without Peer

(By JOHN D. LOPER)

The school system of Phoenix includes kindergartens, grade and high schools. Although the entire system forms an organic whole, it has two distinct governing boards. The elementary schools, that is, kindergartens, primary and grammar grades, are administered by a Board of Trustees of three members elected at large for a term of three years.

The Board of Trustees elects a Superintendent of Schools. Under the direction of the board, the superintendent has charge of the department of instruction, repairs and supplies, and finances. In the department of instruction there is an assistant superintendent, a supervisor of drawing and a supervisor of music.

The high school is what is known in Arizona as a union high school, that is, Phoenix and a number of adjacent school districts form a union high school district.

The union high school is under the control of a Board of Education of five members elected for five years. This board administers all departments of the high school.

The Phoenix elementary schools have for years past been organized on what is known as the eight year basis. Promotions have been made in the middle of the year and at the end of the term. In the seventh and eighth grades, the departmental plan of instruction has been carried on for the past three years. We believe that this system of instruction offers many advantages over the plan of one teacher teaching all subjects.

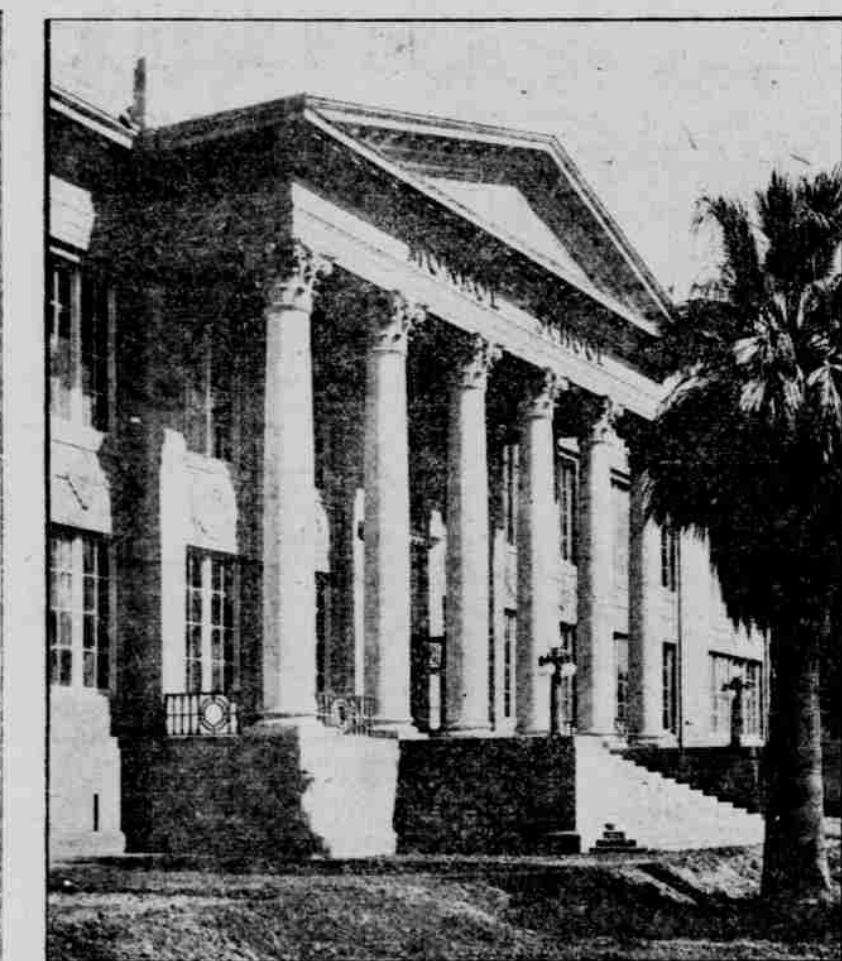
The course of study now in use in the elementary schools was prepared by the State Board of Education and outlines a minimum amount of work to be done by the schools of the state. The Phoenix schools do all that this course requires and much more in many of the subjects.

### Kindergartens.

Kindergartens were introduced into the Phoenix public schools in September, 1912. At this time three kindergartens were opened—one each in the McKinley, Fillmore and Grant schools. The following year the number was increased to four, and in September, 1914, seven kindergartens were in operation. We now have in all the primary schools of the city with the exception of the colored school and Lincoln. The daily attendance at these kindergartens varies from twenty-five to thirty-five children.

The music in the Phoenix schools has been in the hands of a supervisor since 1902, and in the same year the drawing was put in the hands of a trained supervisor. The course in drawing is such as will correlate with the manual training and household arts.

Manual training was introduced into the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades in 1905. The fifth and sixth grade boys have one hour and fifteen minutes; seventh and eighth



THE MONROE SCHOOL ENTRANCE.

This school, built and equipped at a cost of \$125,000.00, ranks with the finest grammar schools in the United States. It accommodates 800 pupils.

grades two and one-half hours per week. Household economics was introduced at the same time as manual training, the girls of the fifth and sixth grades devoting one and one-quarter hours and the girls of the seventh grade two and one-half hours to sewing, and the eighth grade two and one-half hours to cooking per week.

**Medical Inspection.** Medical inspection for all school children was introduced in 1909. A physician is employed on a regular salary who examines all children at the time they enter school. If a child is found to have any contagious or infectious disease, the parent is at once notified and advised to consult the family physician. If any parents are financially unable to have their children treated, treatment is given such children free of charge by the school physician.

### Free Textbooks

At the opening of school in the fall of 1913, the state commenced

to furnish all pupils free of charge with textbooks. This system of free textbooks has now been in use approximately two years and careful observation would lead one to believe that the system is successful.

### Growth of the School

In October, 1908, the enrollment of the Phoenix elementary schools was 1326, housed in the old Central school and five ward schools. The ward schools at that time consisted of four rooms each. Since that time the enrollment has grown to more than four thousand, which has necessitated much building. During the past five years the district has issued \$425,000 in bonds. Of this amount, \$90,000 has been invested in school sites and out of the remainder four eight room primary schools—Grant, Capitol, Washington and Garfield, the colored school and two grammar schools—Adams and Monroe—have been built and equipped. The Central, Adams and Monroe buildings are equipped for manual training and household economics. In addition to the above the district has constructed five temporary school buildings which can be moved from one congested district to another as the necessity may arise. This gives us a total of one hundred and six rooms in the city. At the present time one hundred and six teachers including the superintendent, supervisors and special teachers are employed. The monthly salary paid to teachers averages \$107.56.

During the school year of 1913-14 there was spent in all departments of the elementary schools \$167,057.42. There were enrolled 3587 pupils; the cost per pupil enrolled was \$26.35. The daily average attendance for the same time was 2669; the cost per capita based on the daily average attendance, \$10.11.

In addition to the above elementary schools, Phoenix supports a union high school which comprises six buildings, athletic grounds, an agricultural experimental farm occu-

## Winter Months Are Balmy With Scent of Flowers

The lily has an air,  
And the snow drop a grace;  
The Sweet pea a way,  
And the heart's ease a face,  
Yet there's nothing like the rose  
When she blows.

All of these blossoms one expects through the summer, but to have them, and innumerable others, blooming out of doors through all the months of winter, makes Phoenix and the Salt River Valley a veritable paradise. Nowhere in the world do roses bloom more beautifully or profusely. But it is the "American Beauty" or "Valley Beauty" rose that is without a peer in any other country. On stems a yard or more in length, they make a blaze of color in almost every garden, hedge and park thru November, December and January—lasting in sheltered places all winter long.

The earlier varieties of sweet peas make their appearance at Christmas and continue until their more lovely "Spencer" sisters take their place in February, and bloom until June.

Through the entire season hardy marigolds, scarlet flax and sweet alysium make bright borders everywhere, while petunias, nasturtiums, violets, Roman hyacinths, jonquils, daffodils and narcissus follow each other in quick succession. During late February the Court House garden was lovely with bright beds scattered over the green lawn. One was a mass of scarlet Ranunculus; another of giant panies; another a rainbow of anemones of every hue; while a fourth was of mammoth verbenas in gorgeous colors.

All thru the winter one found a drive through the Capitol grounds a thing of refreshment and color. There were to be found perennial magnolias, verbenas, poppies, centurias, candytuft and stocks, all making a riot of color.

The lawns are beautifully kept and green the year round. Evergreen trees, such as Pepper, Eucalyptus,

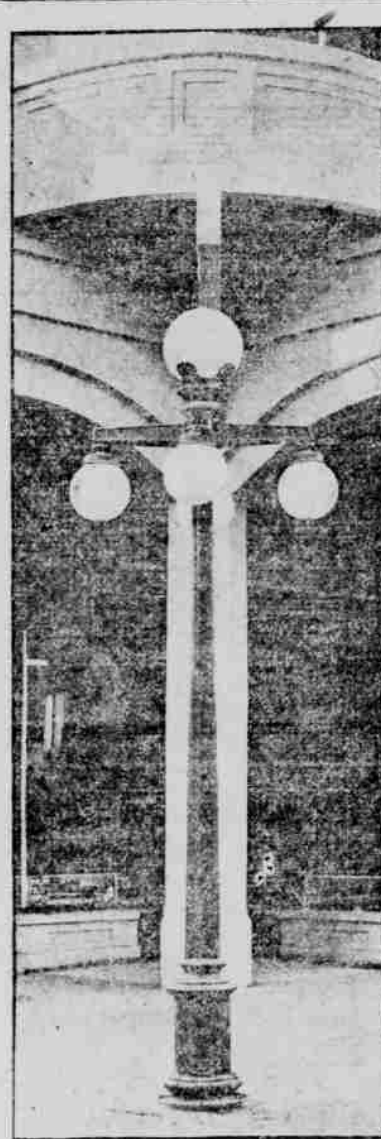
pying more than six acres. These high school buildings are so equipped, and the course of study of the high school so arranged, that the boy and girl can prepare themselves for college or for almost any vocation in life. The enrollment of the high school the year 1914-15 was 674, with a daily average of 567; and there was expended \$59,047.42. This would make the total enrollment for the public schools of the city 4651, with a daily average attendance of 3236, or a per capita cost, based on the daily average attendance of \$31.32.

The following table will show the relative cost of the elementary schools of Phoenix as compared with other cities of the United States:

Lasallena, California	\$70.69
New Rochelle, New York	49.59
Clinton, Iowa	48.47
Seattle, Washington	43.92
Oakland, California	43.64
San Francisco, California	42.27
Newton, Massachusetts	41.41
Spokane, Washington	41.05
East Orange, New Jersey	40.54
Phoenix, Arizona	40.11
Boise, Idaho	39.92
Fresno, California	39.32

Thus, it will be seen that our per capita cost is about the same as other cities in the West surrounded by somewhat like conditions.

The other towns of the Salt River Valley and the rural schools will be found to be on an equality with the schools of Phoenix.



BEAUTY AND UTILITY  
Ornamental street lighting standards have displaced the old arc-light system in Phoenix.

Olive, Orange (laden with golden fruit), Date and Fan Palm, and shrubs and hedges of Laurel, Box, Oleander, Rose, and Pomegranate, lend themselves generally to the landscape gardener, and are so beautifully used in all the gardens and parks, that one might well call Phoenix and Emerald city. With the

## Women's Clubs Potent Factor In Development

No proper measure of any community's growth or progress can be made which omits the Woman's club movement, now a potent factor in civic development.

Phoenix has seven of these centers of influence, and circled about the city are at least eight other clubs, all closely affiliated in the "Central Arizona District Federation of Women's Clubs" whose mission is to broaden and strengthen club activities, to increase the interest of women in public affairs and to secure their effective cooperation.

The purpose of the "Friday Club" of Phoenix—the first organized—is the study of history but they also give generous heed to the calls of philanthropy and public interest.

Love of music and social fellowship led to the formation of "The Harmony Club," which has been learning also the deeper lessons of sweet charity, having passed on to others, less fortunate than they, many of the comforts of life.

"The Women's Club of Phoenix"—the largest in the state—has in its membership many of the ablest women in the city and valley. Standing for high ideals in private and civic life, seeking progressive measures for the homes, the schools and municipal affairs, believing in culture and refinement as a true regenerating energies, it is a power for good in this valley. It has built a \$2500 club house which has become a notable center of women's activities.

"The Musicians Club" has won an enviable place among the refining, educating influences of the city through its large membership of talented, trained musicians and students of music.

"The Conservation Club" has a broad field of study—the conservation of natural resources. They find "sermons in stones, books in running brooks," and job in helping to conserve the interests of children that mankind may never be.

"The College Club," as its name indicates, is composed of college women whose purpose is to continue in a measure their college work and

## Parent Teacher Movement Alive In This Valley

With a beginning of four Mothers' Child-Study Circles ten years ago, there are now in the valley eighteen Parent Teacher Associations with a membership of about three hundred and fifty.

The purpose of the Circles and Associations being identical, the name was changed with the realization of the need of the co-operation of all fathers, mothers and teachers.

Many things have been accomplished which are not apparent, but that has proved the Parent Teacher Associations to be a factor in the development of our schools through the co-operation of parents, teachers, principals and trustees.

Meeting once a month, or oftener, usually at the school house, gives the parents an opportunity to know the conditions of the school and its surroundings as well as to visit the classrooms. These meetings are held for the purpose of discussing topics vital to the interests of home and school, the support the Association gives to everything beneficial to school and pupil, while parents study to make the home all it should be.

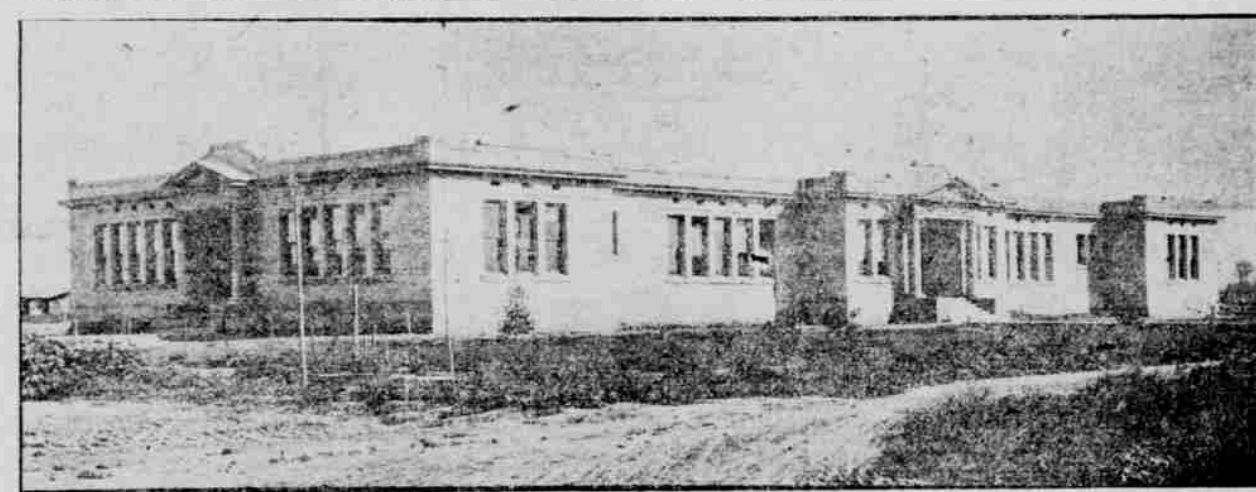
Libraries have been given and looked after, play ground apparatus installed, grounds improved, lunch pavilions built, pianos, organs, pictures, etc., bought, rest rooms for teachers furnished, emergency chests supplied for the use in case of sudden illness or accident and poor children clothed.

The teaching of domestic science and manual training has always been encouraged by the Associations, in fact, everything that attributes to the welfare of the child in home, school and state.

MRS. J. C. NORTON.

clubs only. Circling the city, we have on the northwest the energetic "Woman's Club of Glendale" which has built a picturesque club home.

Coming eastward along the northern edge of the valley, we find "The Washington District Woman's Club" and nearby "The Orangewood Literary and Improvement Club." Again not far away is "The Ramona Club." Still farther



THE GARFIELD SCHOOL —Lescher and Kibbey, Architects.

The public school system of Phoenix is famous for the number of its large, modern, completely-equipped grade school buildings.

whole landscape clothed in such verdure it is hard for one to imagine a land wrapped in a blanket of snow and ice.

Greece has a labor federation composed of workers in seventeen industries.

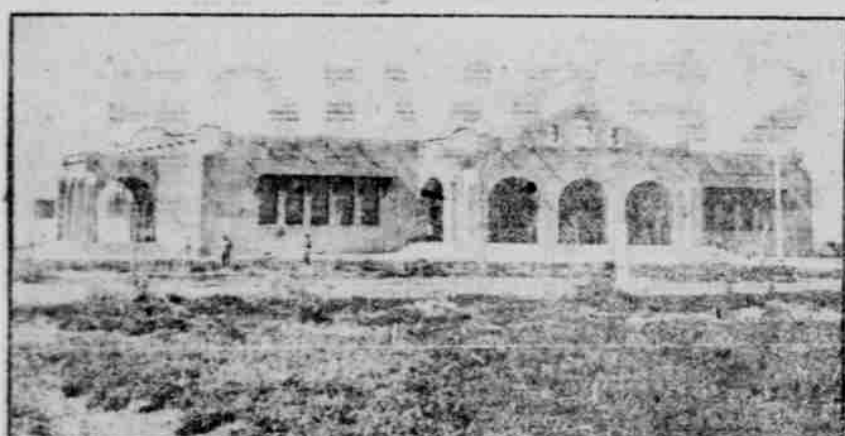
through association, to stimulate their mental activities.

"The Civic League," interested in the study of civil government, is endeavoring to discover woman's place in public affairs and to raise by their service the standard of civic activities.

So far we have spoken of Phoenix

east on the extreme northern limits of the valley we find "The Coterie Club." Turning to the section northeast of Phoenix, we discover one source of its attractiveness in "The Madison Improvement Club." Southeast of Phoenix

(Continued on Page Seven)



—Lescher and Kibbey, Architects.

### THE GILBERT SCHOOL.

Typical of the attractive school buildings found throughout the Salt River Valley

## Arizona School of Music

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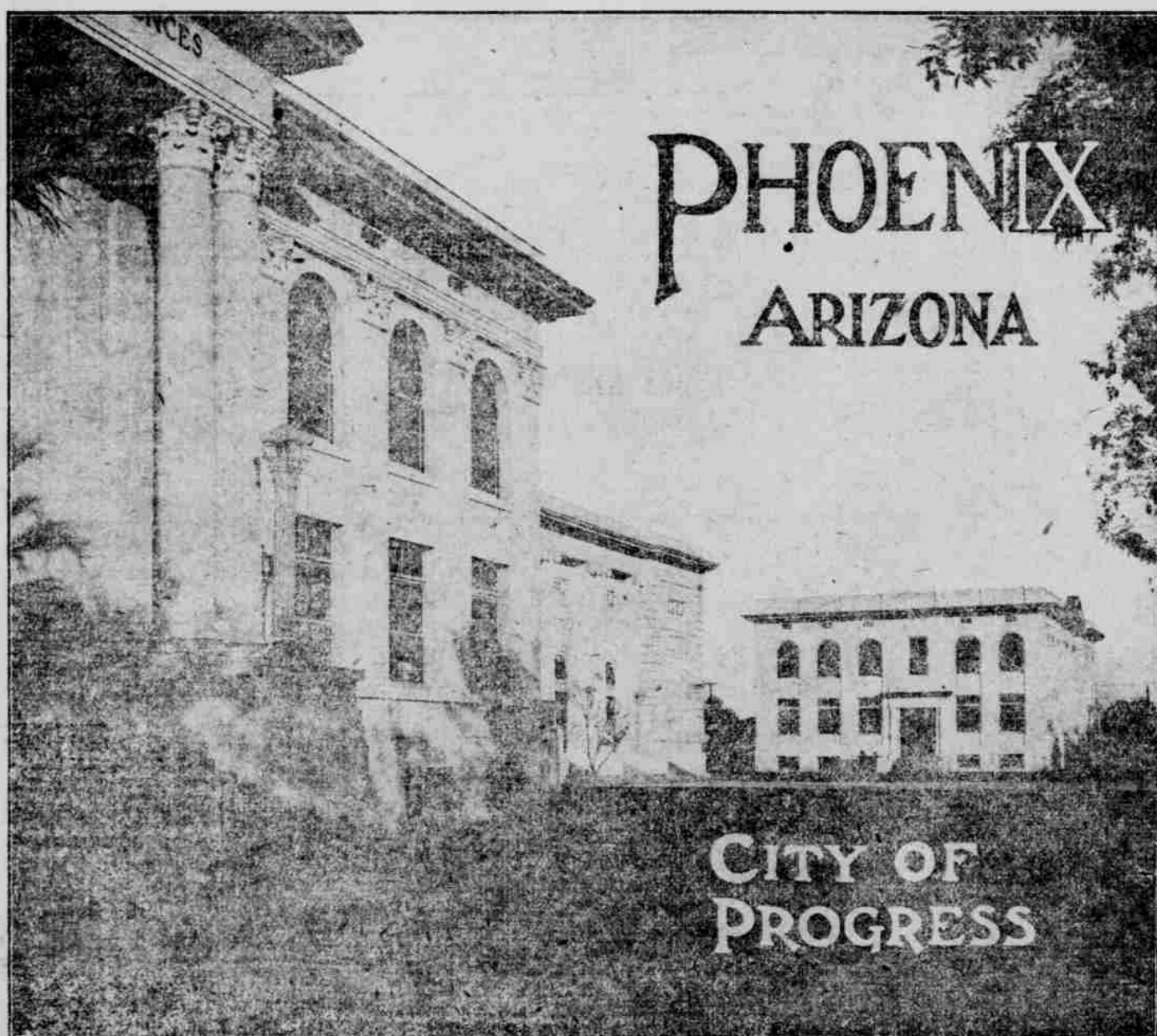
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THE PHOENIX UNION HIGH SCHOOL.  
The five buildings in the local high school plant represent an investment of \$188,000.